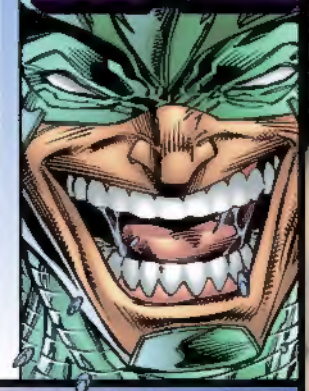
MARVEL COMICS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!



Fantastic Four

AUG
#10

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

LEE
CHOI
LIM
BENNETT
MILLER

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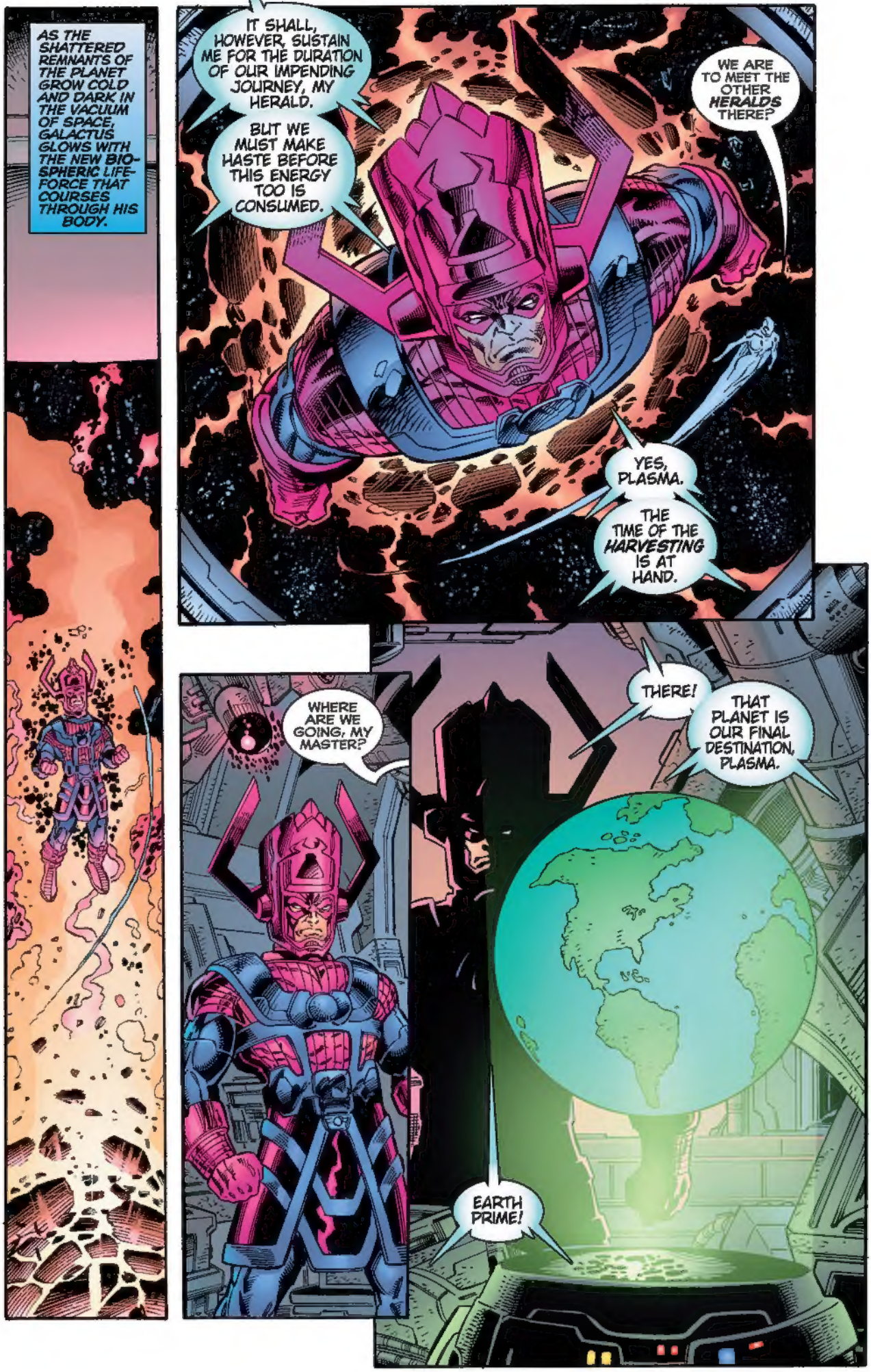
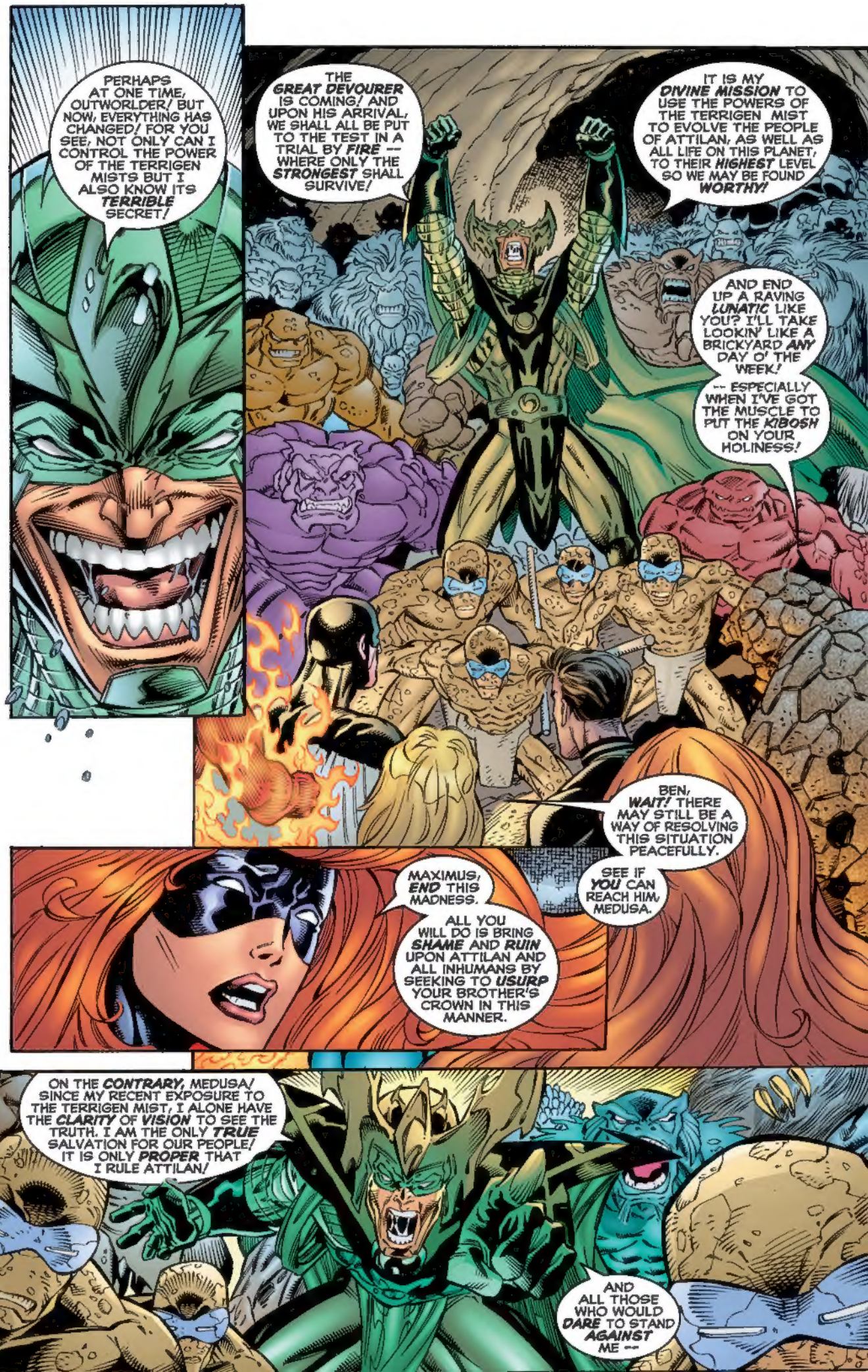
IT...
...IS...
...DONE!
ZAK
HOW FARE YOU, MY MASTER?
THE ENERGY OF THIS PLANETOID SHALL SUFFICE TO STAVE OFF DEATH'S COLD TOUCH.
...BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO QUENCH MY HUNGER!


AS THE SHATTERED REMNANTS OF THE PLANET GROW COLD AND DARK IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE, GALACTUS GLOWS WITH THE NEW BIO-SPHERIC LIFE-FORCE THAT COURSES THROUGH HIS BODY.
IT SHALL, HOWEVER, SUSTAIN ME FOR THE DURATION OF OUR IMPENDING JOURNEY, MY HERALD.
BUT WE MUST MAKE HASTE BEFORE THIS ENERGY TOO IS CONSUMED.
WE ARE TO MEET THE OTHER HERALDS THERE?
YES, PLASMA.
THE TIME OF THE HARVESTING IS AT HAND.
WHERE ARE WE GOING, MY MASTER?
THERE!
THAT PLANET IS OUR FINAL DESTINATION, PLASMA.
EARTH PRIME!

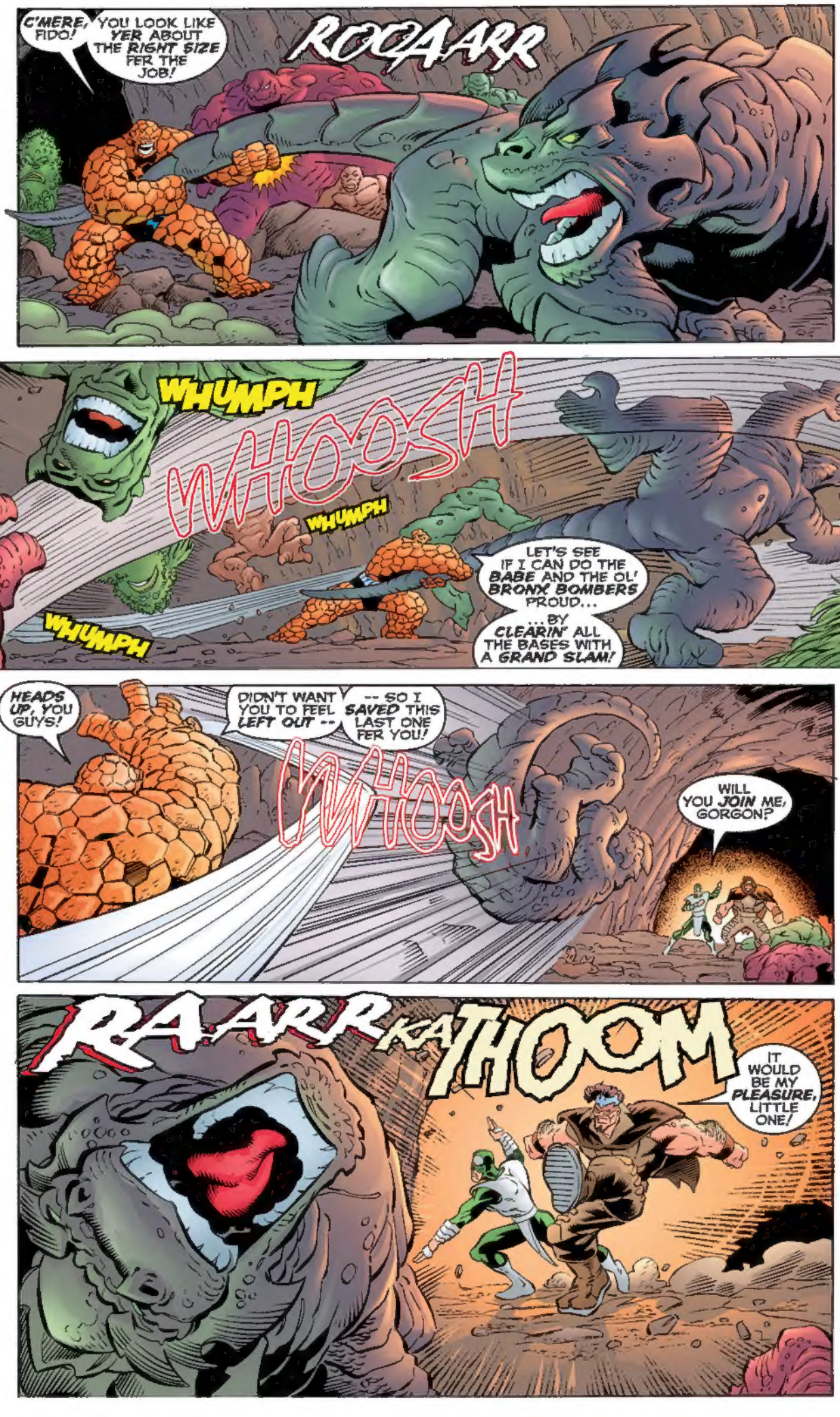
THE TERRIGEN CAVERNS.
BENEATH THE CITY OF ATTILAN, HOME TO THE INHUMANS.
MAXIMUS IS ALIVE?
BUT THEN WHAT HAS HE BEEN DOING DOWN HERE ALL THIS TIME WHEN WE FEARED HIM LOST?
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HE HAS SOMEHOW MANIPULATED THE POWER OF THE SACRED TERRIGEN MISTS TO TRANSFORM THE ALPHA-PRIMITIVES, WHO INHABIT THESE CAVERNS, INTO HORRIBLE MUTATIONS!
SO THESE ARE THE MONSTERS THAT HAVE BEEN ATTACKING ATTILAN?
BUT WHY WOULD BLACK BOLT'S BROTHER TURN THE POWERS OF THE TERRIGEN MIST AGAINST HIS OWN PEOPLE?
LOOKS TA ME, STRETCH, THAT MAYBE OL' MAX HERE IS LOOKIN' TO TAKE HIS BROTHER'S PLACE ON THE THRONE!
AND HE'S MADE HIS OWN LITTLE PRIVATE ARMY TO FIGHT ANYONE WHO'D STAND IN HIS WAY!


PERHAPS AT ONE TIME, OUTWORLDER, BUT NOW, EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED! FOR YOU SEE, NOT ONLY CAN I CONTROL THE POWER OF THE TERRIGEN MISTS BUT I ALSO KNOW ITS TERRIBLE SECRET!
THE GREAT DEVOURER IS COMING! AND UPON HIS ARRIVAL, WE SHALL ALL BE PUT TO THE TEST IN A TRIAL BY FIRE -- WHERE ONLY THE STRONGEST SHALL SURVIVE!
IT IS MY DIVINE MISSION TO USE THE POWERS OF THE TERRIGEN MIST TO EVOLVE THE PEOPLE OF ATTILAN, AS WELL AS ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET, TO THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL SO WE MAY BE FOUND WORTHY!
AND END UP A RAVING LUNATIC LIKE YOU? I'LL TAKE LOOKIN' LIKE A BRICKYARD ANY DAY O' THE WEEK!
-- ESPECIALLY WHEN I'VE GOT THE MUSCLE TO PUT THE KIBOSH ON YOUR HOLINESS!
BEN, WAIT! THERE MAY STILL BE A WAY OF RESOLVING THIS SITUATION PEACEFULLY.
SEE IF YOU CAN REACH HIM, MEDUSA.
MAXIMUS, END THIS MADNESS.
ALL YOU WILL DO IS BRING SHAME AND RUIN UPON ATTILAN AND ALL INHUMANS BY SEEKING TO USURP YOUR BROTHER'S CROWN IN THIS MANNER.
ON THE CONTRARY, MEDUSA! SINCE MY RECENT EXPOSURE TO THE TERRIGEN MIST, I ALONE HAVE THE CLARITY OF VISION TO SEE THE TRUTH. I AM THE ONLY TRUE SALVATION FOR OUR PEOPLE! IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT I RULE ATTILAN!
AND ALL THOSE WHO WOULD DARE TO STAND AGAINST ME --

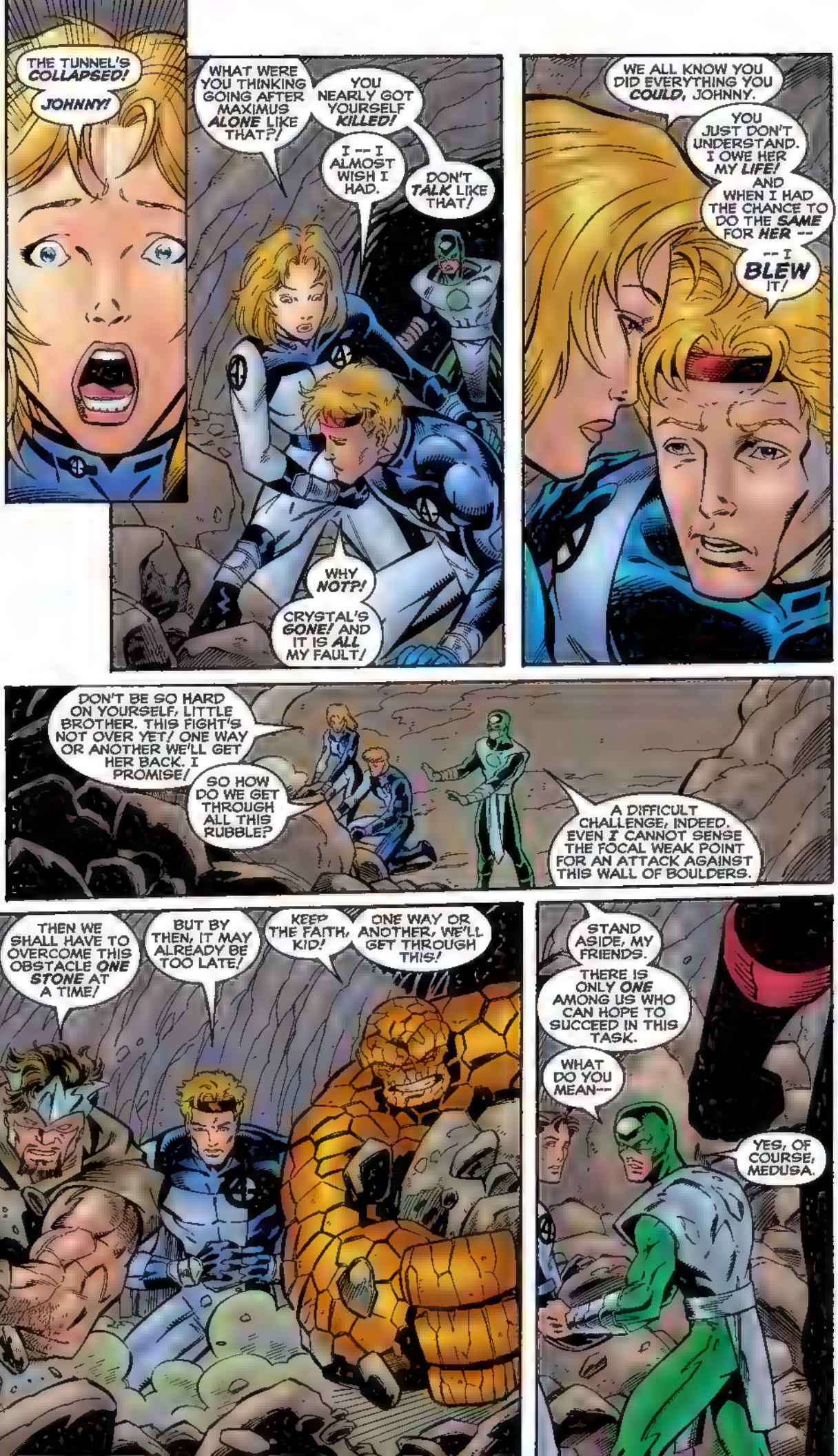
"--- MUST BE DESTROYED!"
SO MUCH FER YER PEACE TALKS, REED.
GUESS THAT MEANS IT'S TIME TA RUMBLE!
IT WOULD INDEED, BEN GRIMM!
LET MAXIMUS' MINIONS NOW FEEL THE THUNDEROUS MIGHT OF MY HOOF!
KA-THOOM
I HOPE YOU KNOW HOW TO TAP DANCE, GORGON, 'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT A REGULAR ARMY OF THESE ALPHA-PRIMITIVES!
SO STOP FLAPPIN' YER TRAP, KID, AND START TAKIN' CARE O' BUSINESS!
IF WE'RE GONNA GET OUR MITTS ON MAXI, WE'LL HAFTA GET THROUGH ALL THESE GOONS FIRST!
FWOOSH
WHAM
MAXIMUS! PUT AN END TO THIS INSANE ENDEAVOR!
YOUR WORDS ARE TO NO AVAIL, MY COUSIN!
KRAK
THEN LET MY ACTIONS SPEAK FOR ME!
FWIP

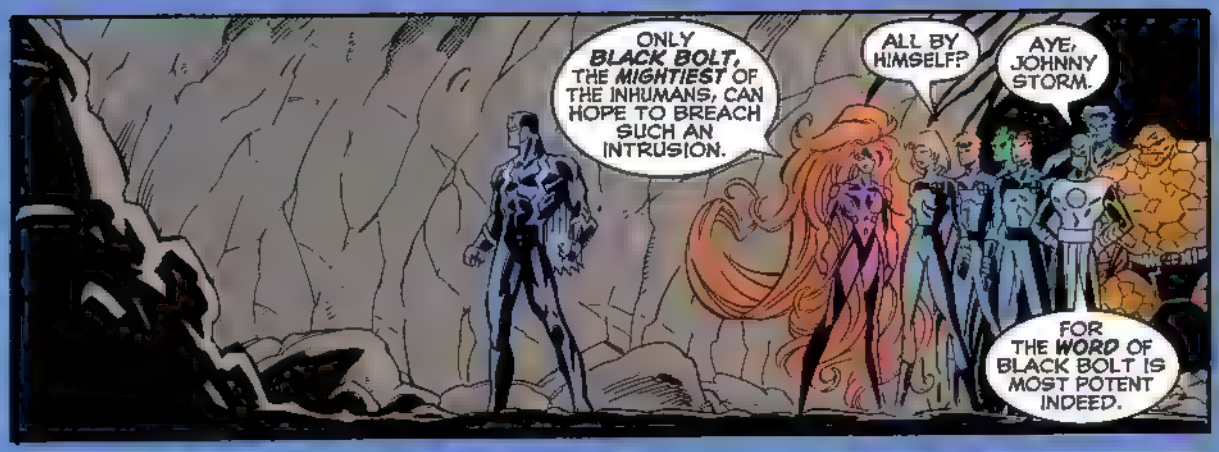
BEWARE, MY FRIENDS! THESE CREATURES ATTACK WITH A NEW-FOUND CUNNING THAT IS BEYOND THEIR KEN!
WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH A STRATEGY TO FIGHT THESE MONSTERS!
THERE MAY NOT BE TIME FOR THAT, SUE.
MAXIMUS IS EVIDENTLY USING SOME FORM OF TELEPATHY TO CONTROL THESE CREATURES, WHICH MEANS HE CAN QUICKLY AND EASILY ADAPT TO ANY TACTIC WE USE AGAINST HIM.
OUR BEST HOPE IS TO BREAK HIS MIND-LINK WITH THE ALPHA-PRIMITIVES!
REED'S RIGHT!
MAXIMUS IS SURROUNDING HIMSELF WITH THESE MONSTERS AND HIDING HIMSELF BEHIND A WALL OF BODIES!
THERE'S NO WAY TO GET TO HIM!
CRYSTAL! TRITON! MEDUSA!
FOLLOW ME, COUSINS! I WILL SPEARHEAD THE ATTACK AGAINST THIS BARRIER!
THWAK
WHUMP
LEAD ON, MY BROTHER!

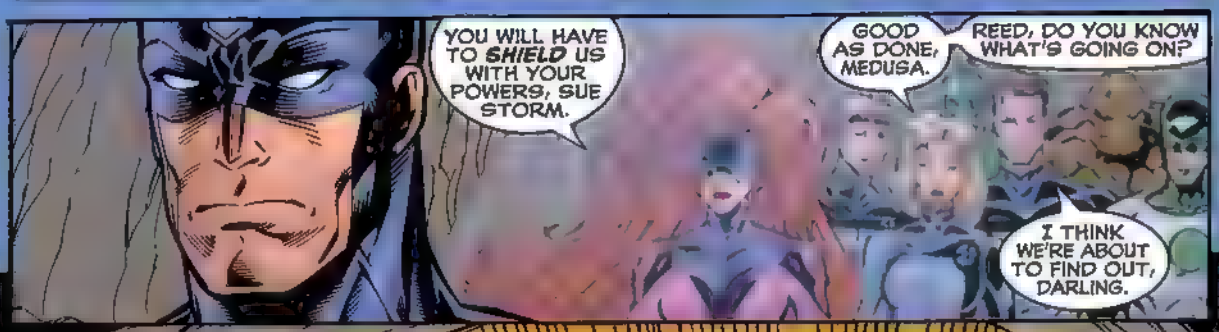
GO TO IT, KARNAK!
BLACK BOLT AND THE REST OF US WILL COVER YOUR FLANK!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HURRY, THEY'RE COMING AT US FROM EVERY DIRECTION!
IT'LL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY OVERWHELM US WITH THEIR NUMBERS!
AND RIGHT NOW, MY CARDS ARE SHOWIN' THAT -- IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
KA-THOOM
IT AIN'T OVER JUST YET, SUZIE!
NOT WHILE THE EVER-LOVIN' THING IS STILL ON HIS FEET!
WHAM
LIKE MY AUNT PETUNIA ALWAYS USED TA SAY...
"WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, YA GOTTA PLAY THE HAND THAT YER DEALT!"

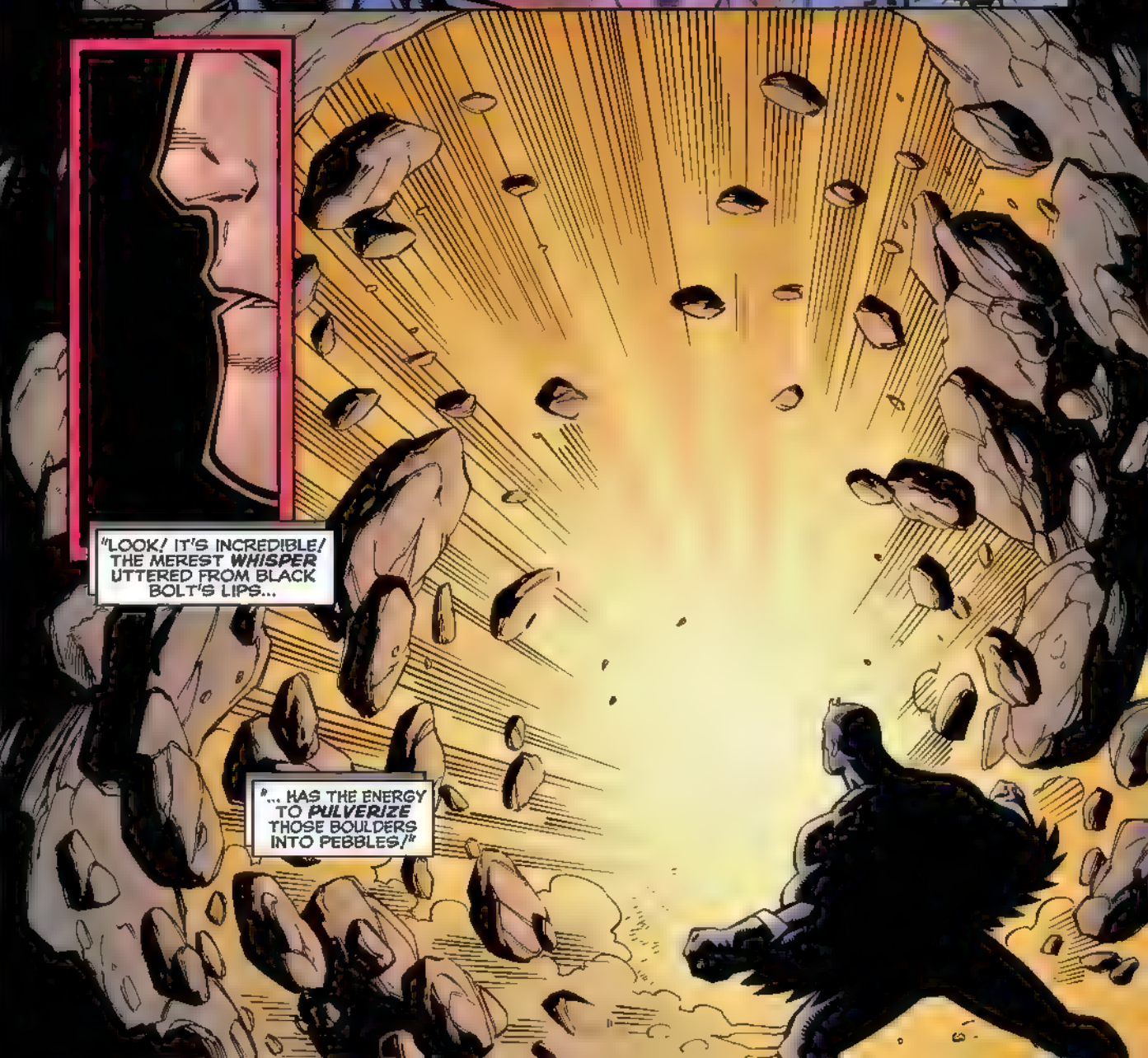

C'MERE, FIDO!
YOU LOOK LIKE YER ABOUT THE RIGHT SIZE FER THE JOB!
ROOAARR
WHUMPH
WHOOSH
WHUMPH
WHUMPH
LET'S SEE IF I CAN DO THE BABE AND THE OL' BRONX BOMBERS PROUD...
...BY CLEARIN' ALL THE BASES WITH A GRAND SLAM!
HEADS UP, YOU GUYS!
DIDN'T WANT YOU TO FEEL LEFT OUT --
-- SO I SAVED THIS LAST ONE FER YOU!
WHOOSH
WILL YOU JOIN ME, GORGON?
RA.ARR
KATHOOM
IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE, LITTLE ONE!

YOUR REIGN OF TERROR IS AT AN END, MAXIMUS!
SURRENDER NOW AND PRESERVE WHAT LITTLE HONOR YOU HAVE LEFT!
Ah, CRYSTAL, SO YOU WOULD BETRAY ME AS WELL?
WHILE I DO NOT POSSESS YOUR VAUNTED ELEMENTAL POWERS...
AIIEEFF!
VSSSHH
...MY MIND BLAST SHOULD BE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO DEAL WITH YOU!
NOW THAT I HAVE MY PRIZE...
...IT IS TIME I TOOK MY LEAVE. IF THE LADY MEDUSA SHALL NOT BE MY QUEEN...
...THEN HER SISTER WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO DO.
CRYSTAL! NO!
FWSH
IF YOU'VE HURT HER, MAXIMUS, I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D NEVER BEEN BORN!
DO YOU HEAR ME?!
THE ONLY THING I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU, OUTWORLDER, IS YOUR DYING BREATH!
VRAAEH
HUUNNGH!

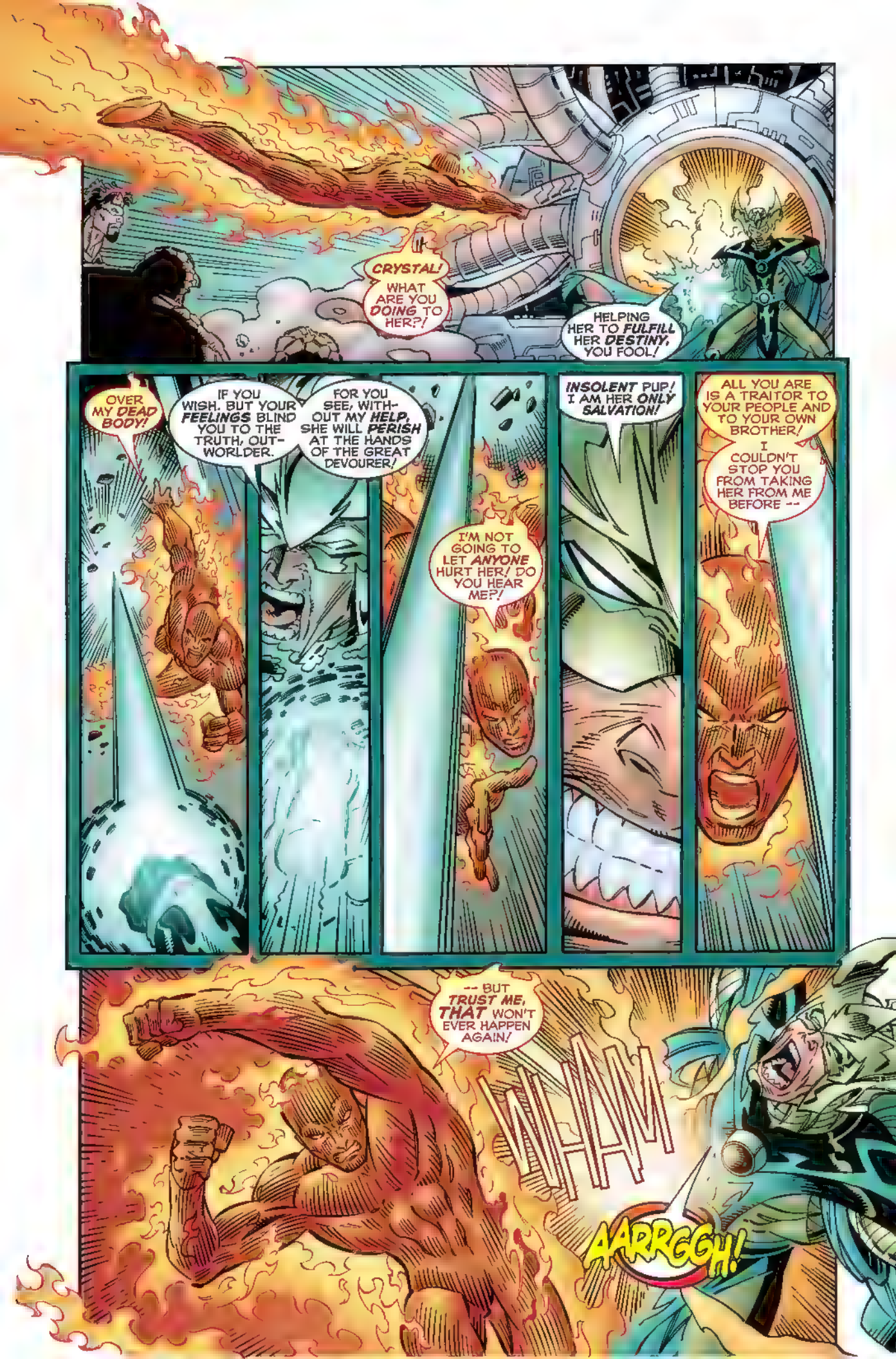

THE TUNNEL'S COLLAPSED!
JOHNNY!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING GOING AFTER MAXIMUS ALONE LIKE THAT?!
YOU NEARLY GOT YOURSELF KILLED!
I -- I ALMOST WISH I HAD.
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!
WHY NOT?!
CRYSTAL'S GONE! AND IT IS ALL MY FAULT!
WE ALL KNOW YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD, JOHNNY.
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND. I OWE HER MY LIFE! AND WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE TO DO THE SAME FOR HER --
-- I BLEW IT!
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF, LITTLE BROTHER. THIS FIGHT'S NOT OVER YET! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WE'LL GET HER BACK. I PROMISE!
SO HOW DO WE GET THROUGH ALL THIS RUBBLE?
A DIFFICULT CHALLENGE, INDEED. EVEN I CANNOT SENSE THE FOCAL WEAK POINT FOR AN ATTACK AGAINST THIS WALL OF BOULDERS.
THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO OVERCOME THIS OBSTACLE ONE STONE AT A TIME!
BUT BY THEN, IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!
KEEP THE FAITH, KID!
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS!
STAND ASIDE, MY FRIENDS.
THERE IS ONLY ONE AMONG US WHO CAN HOPE TO SUCCEED IN THIS TASK.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN--
YES, OF COURSE, MEDUSA.

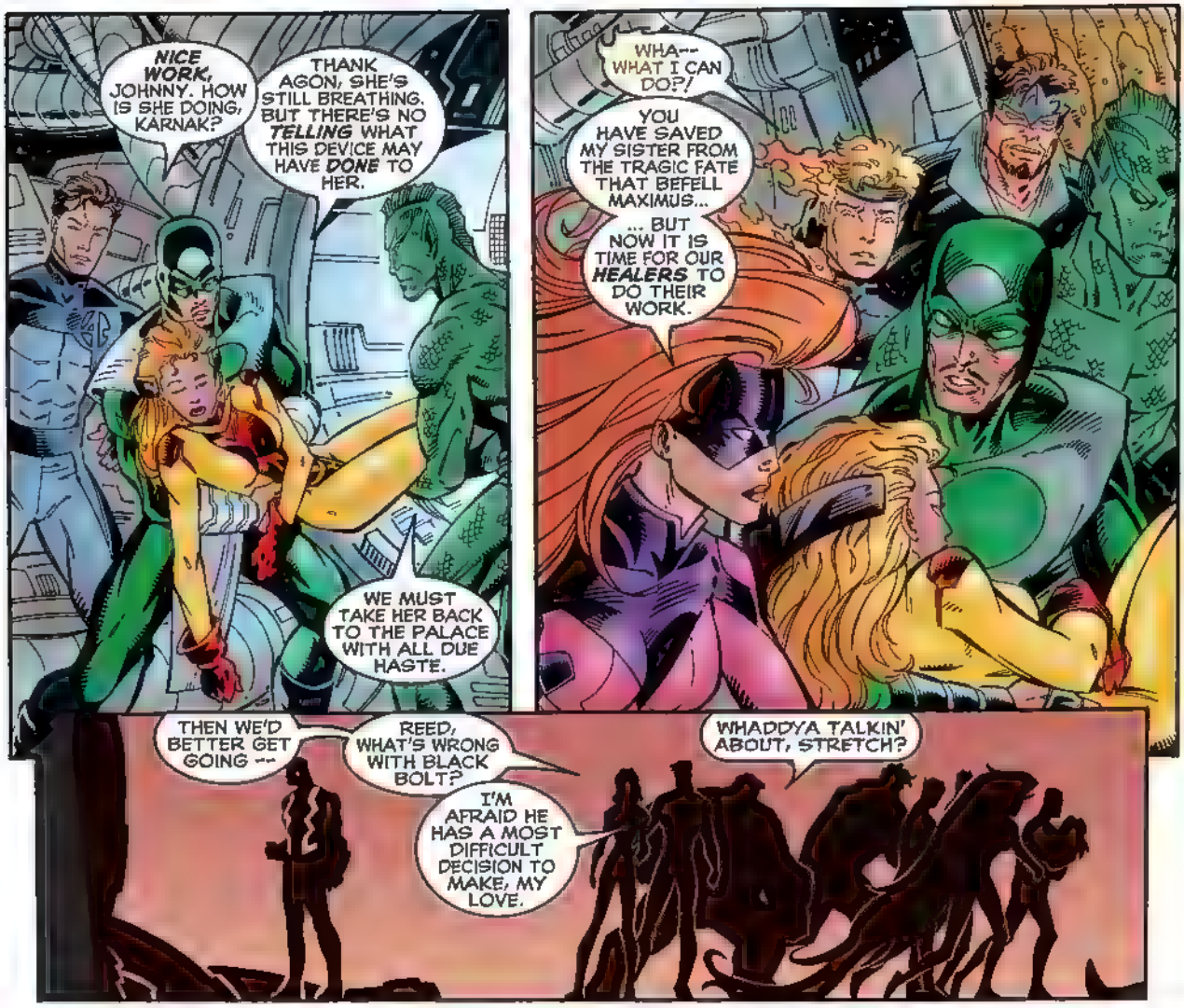

ONLY BLACK BOLT, THE MIGHTIEST OF THE INHUMANS, CAN HOPE TO BREACH SUCH AN INTRUSION.
ALL BY HIMSELF?
AYE, JOHNNY STORM.
FOR THE WORD OF BLACK BOLT IS MOST POTENT INDEED.

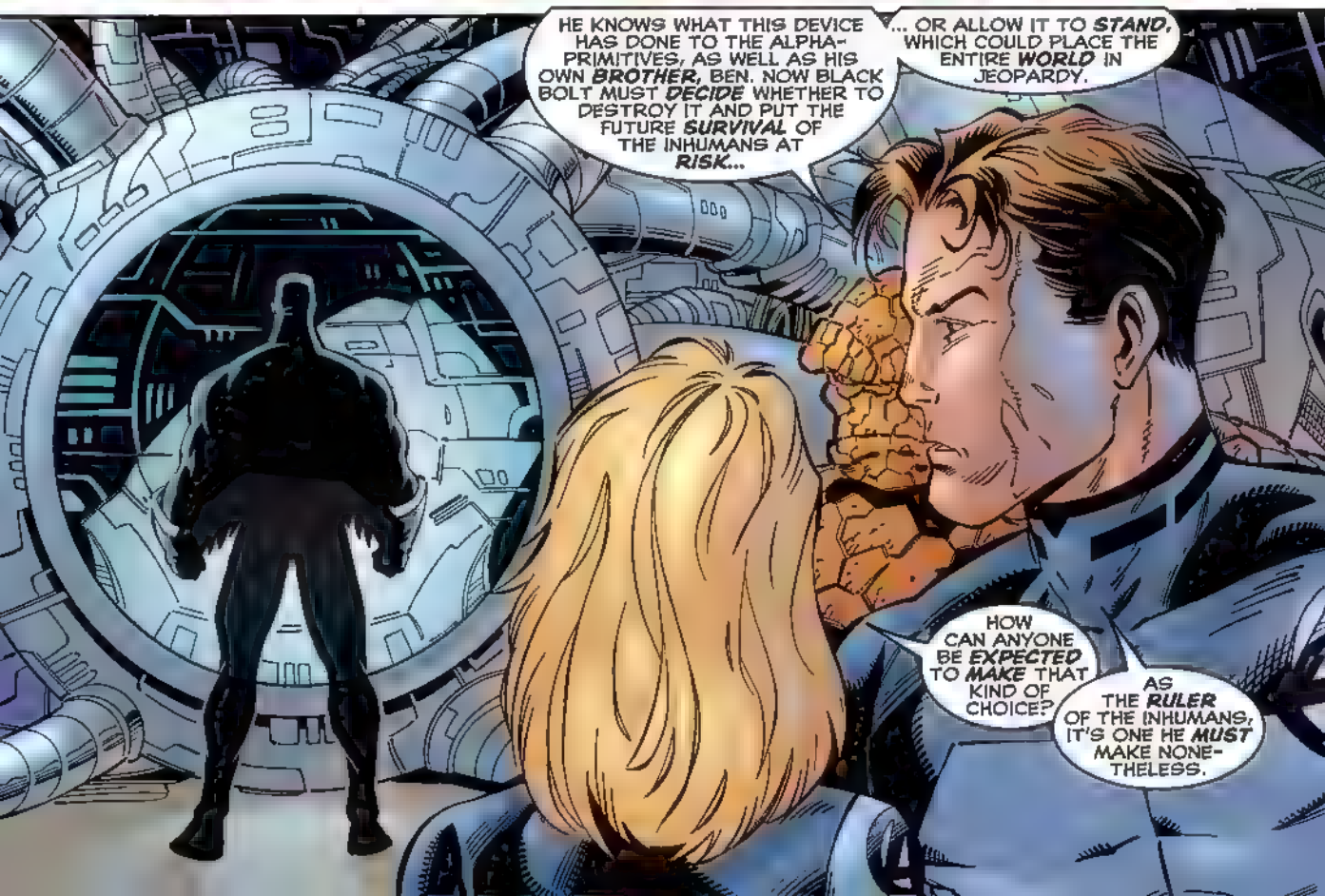

YOU WILL HAVE TO SHIELD US WITH YOUR POWERS, SUE STORM.
GOOD AS DONE, MEDUSA.
REED, DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT, DARLING.


"LOOK! IT'S INCREDIBLE! THE MEREST WHISPER UTTERED FROM BLACK BOLT'S LIPS...
"... HAS THE ENERGY TO PULVERIZE THOSE BOULDERS INTO PEBBLES!"

MEANWHILE DEEPER INSIDE THE CAVERN...
BEHOLD, CRYSTAL! THE CREATION DEVICE -- THE SOURCE OF THE TERRIGEN MIST!
WITH IT, I ALONE WIELD THE POWER TO ADVANCE THE EVOLUTIONARY GROWTH OF ANY LIVING CREATURE ON THIS PLANET!
MAXIMUS, NO! STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING --
AAIIEEEE!
I'M TRANSFORMING YOU, MY DEAR COUSIN -- ELEVATING YOU TO BECOME THE QUEEN MOTHER OF A NEW RACE OF BEINGS...
"...WHO SHALL FIRST CONQUER ATTILAN AND THEN THE WORLD!"
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME, PAL! NOW LET HER GO!
KRAAASH
THE KID'S RIGHT, MAXI! YER DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR ARE IN FER ONE HARSH REALITY CHECK!
NO! STAY BACK! YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE! NOT WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE!

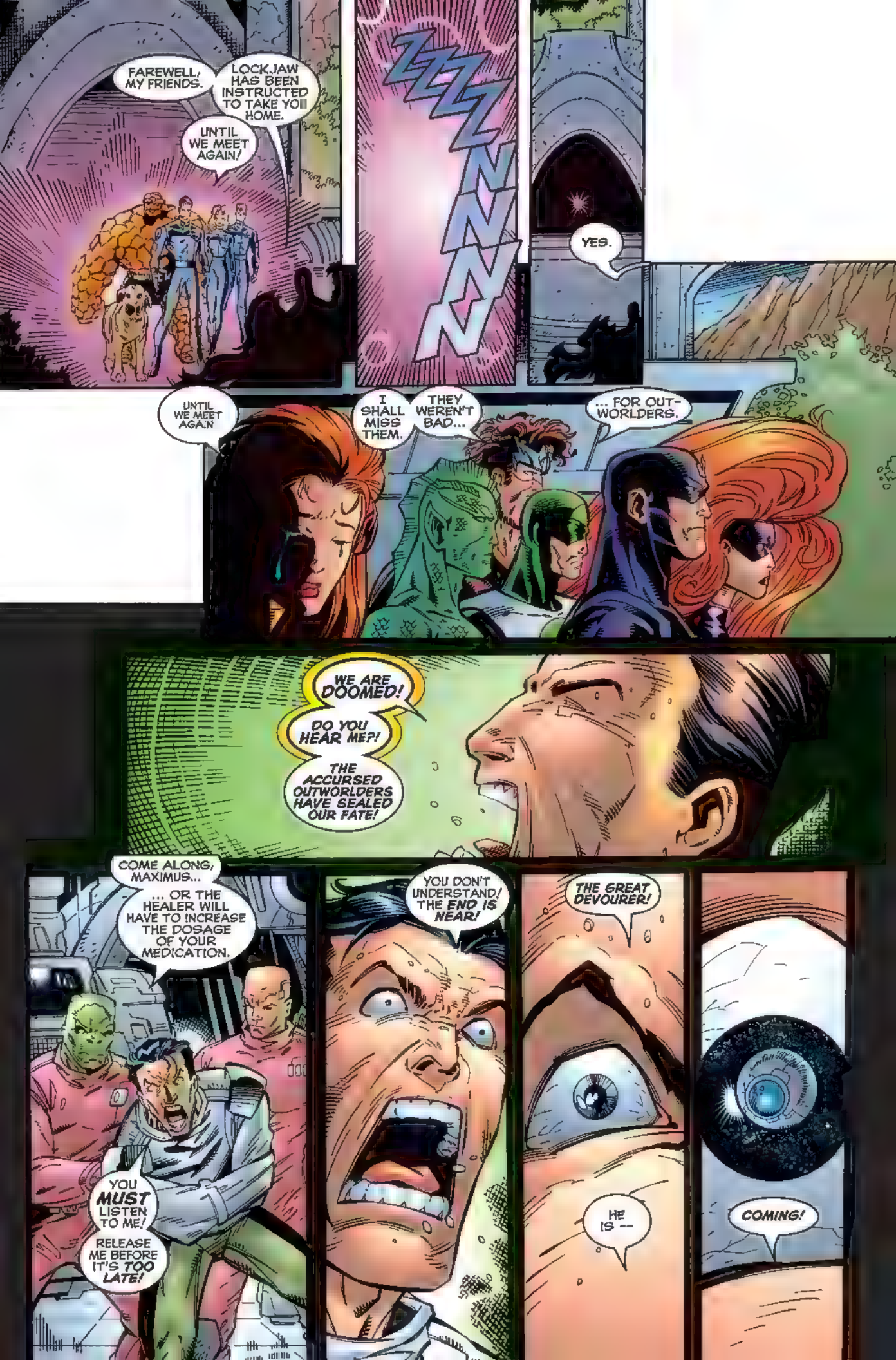

CRYSTAL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER?!
HELPING HER TO FULFILL HER DESTINY, YOU FOOL!
OVER MY DEAD BODY!
IF YOU WISH. BUT YOUR FEELINGS BLIND YOU TO THE TRUTH, OUTWORLDER.
FOR YOU SEE, WITHOUT MY HELP, SHE WILL PERISH AT THE HANDS OF THE GREAT DEVOURER!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYONE HURT HER! DO YOU HEAR ME?!
INSOLENT PUP! I AM HER ONLY SALVATION!
ALL YOU ARE IS A TRAITOR TO YOUR PEOPLE AND TO YOUR OWN BROTHER!
I COULDN'T STOP YOU FROM TAKING HER FROM ME BEFORE --
-- BUT TRUST ME, THAT WON'T EVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
WHAM
AARRGGH!


NICE WORK, JOHNNY. HOW IS SHE DOING, KARNAK?
THANK AGON, SHE'S STILL BREATHING. BUT THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THIS DEVICE MAY HAVE DONE TO HER.
WE MUST TAKE HER BACK TO THE PALACE WITH ALL DUE HASTE.
WHA-- WHAT I CAN DO?!
YOU HAVE SAVED MY SISTER FROM THE TRAGIC FATE THAT BEFELL MAXIMUS...
... BUT NOW IT IS TIME FOR OUR HEALERS TO DO THEIR WORK.
THEN WE'D BETTER GET GOING --
REED, WHAT'S WRONG WITH BLACK BOLT?
I'M AFRAID HE HAS A MOST DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE, MY LOVE.
WHADDYA TALKIN' ABOUT, STRETCH?


HE KNOWS WHAT THIS DEVICE HAS DONE TO THE ALPHA-PRIMITIVES, AS WELL AS HIS OWN BROTHER, BEN. NOW BLACK BOLT MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO DESTROY IT AND PUT THE FUTURE SURVIVAL OF THE INHUMANS AT RISK...
... OR ALLOW IT TO STAND, WHICH COULD PLACE THE ENTIRE WORLD IN JEOPARDY.
HOW CAN ANYONE BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THAT KIND OF CHOICE?
AS THE RULER OF THE INHUMANS, IT'S ONE HE MUST MAKE NONE-THELESS.

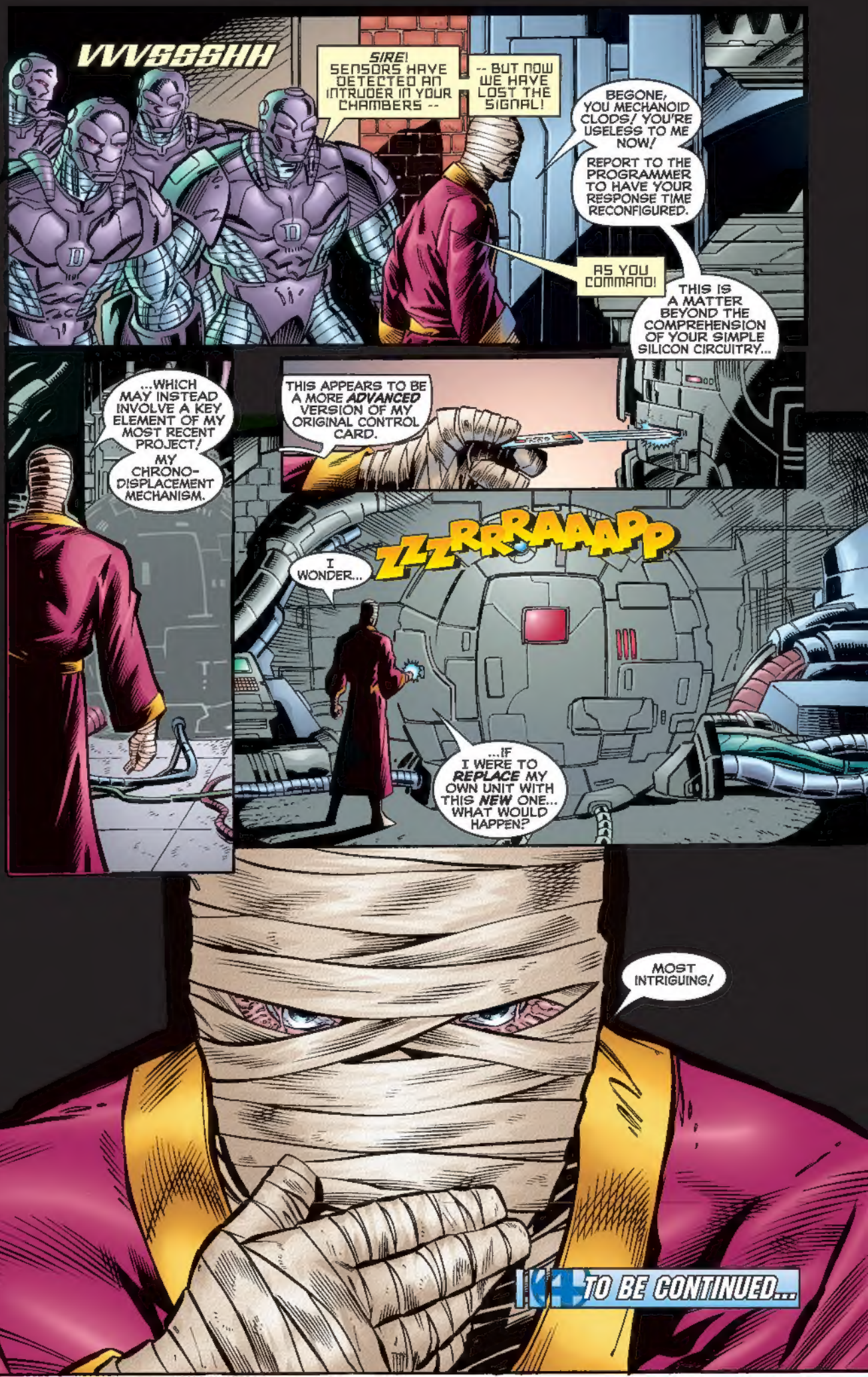
BACK AT THE ROYAL PALACE.
'TIS A JOYOUS DAY INDEED FOR ALL THE INHUMANS OF ATTILAN, A TIME FOR CELEBRATION WITH FEAST AND SONG!
IN HONOR OF YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, REED RICHARDS, THE ROYAL HOUSE DECLARES THAT THIS DAY SHALL BE A HOLIDAY OF THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE!
THANK YOU, LADY MEDUSA.
ESPECIALLY FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR JOHNNY.
IT IS AN HONOR TO BE WELCOMED GUESTS IN YOUR MAGNIFICENT CITY.
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! ENOUGH O' THE DANCIN' IN THE STREETS! SO WHEN DO WE START THIS FEASTING?
ASK AND IT SHALL BE YOURS, MY FRIENDS.
THIS FOOD IS DELICIOUS.
IT'S AMAZING TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THESE SOY AND RICE PRODUCTS.
SURE, IF YER A FLAMIN' VEGETARIAN WHO DON'T MIND EATIN' BIRD FOOD!
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FER A NICE JUICY CHEESE-BURGER RIGHT NOW!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING.
KNOW THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER OUT-WORLDERS...
...BUT WELCOMED FRIENDS HERE IN ATTILAN.
JUST AS YOU ARE IN OUR HOME.
REST ASSURED THAT YOUR SECRETS ARE SAFE WITH US.
I WISH YOU WERE COMING BACK WITH ME.
I'D LIKE THAT TOO.
BUT I'M STILL RECOVERING FROM MY INJURIES. WHAT'S MORE, AS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, I NEED TO BE WITH MY PEOPLE DURING THIS TIME OF CHANGE.
I UNDERSTAND, CRYSTAL.
BUT I'LL STILL MISS YOU.
AS I YOU, JOHNNY.
I'M PUZZLED, KARNAK.
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE SEES IN HIM?
PERHAPS SOME SORT OF INNER BEAUTY, GORGON.
DESPITE ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, THE YOUTH DOES POSSESS THE HEART OF A HERO.
'TIS TRUE.
Eh?/ Err, GREETINGS, BEN GRIMM.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR YOUR YOUNG COMRADE?
ACTUALLY, I WUZ TRYIN' TA GIVE HIM SOME SPACE!
C'MON GUYS! WHADDYA SAY WE GIVE 'EM A LITTLE PRIVACY?


FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS.
LOCKJAW HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TAKE YOU HOME.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!
ZZZNNNN
YES.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
I SHALL MISS THEM.
THEY WEREN'T BAD...
... FOR OUT-WORLDERS.
WE ARE DOOMED!
DO YOU HEAR ME?!
THE ACCURSED OUTWORLDERS HAVE SEALED OUR FATE!
COME ALONG, MAXIMUS...
... OR THE HEALER WILL HAVE TO INCREASE THE DOSAGE OF YOUR MEDICATION.
YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!
RELEASE ME BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE END IS NEAR!
THE GREAT DEVOURER!
HE IS --
COMING!

EPILOGUE.
LATVERIA.
AFTER TWO MONTHS OF NON-STOP WORK, THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CASTLE DOOM IS ALMOST COMPLETE.
THE SYMBOLIC SEAT OF VICTOR VON DOOM'S POWER, THIS CENTURIES OLD CITADEL WAS NEARLY DESTROYED IN A CLASH OF COSMIC FORCES...
...WHILE DOCTOR DOOM AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR WERE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE BETWEEN THE SILVER SURFER AND THE SUPER SKRULL.
AS SEEN IN FF #6.
ONLY THE BENEVOLENCE OF THE SILVER SURFER WOULD SPARE DOOM'S LIFE WHILE THE REST OF HIS WORLD COLLAPSED AROUND HIM.
BUT VICTOR VON DOOM'S INDOMITABLE SENSE OF PURPOSE AND IRON WILL QUICKLY SET HIM INTO MOTION TO REBUILD HIS DOMAIN.
MOST IMPORTANTLY, REFURBISHING HIS PRIZED LABORATORY IN ORDER TO CARRY ON WITH HIS EXPLORATION OF THE BLACK ARTS.
ZZZRRRAAAAPP
UNTIL NOW --

Eh? WHAT IS THIS?/
WHO DARES INTRUDE UPON MY INNER SANCTUM?/
BEEP BEEP BEEP
VEEEEP
KACHANG
I MADE IT/ THE PLAN WORKED/
JUST AS I ANTICIPATED.
WHAT MISCHIEF IS THIS?/ YOU DARE TO IMPERSONATE ME?/
FOOL/ YOUR LIFE IS FORFEIT FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. I --
SILENCE/ I HAVE TOO LITTLE TIME SO YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY/
THERE IS MUCH FOR YOU TO LEARN/
YOUR ARMOR -- IT'S HEAVILY DAMAGED. HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAVE HAPPENED?
EVERYTHING YOU WILL NEED TO KNOW IS ON THIS MEMORY CARD! BUT YOU MUST ACT QUICKLY! DO NOT SQUANDER THIS OPPORTUNITY/
WAIT/
I CANNOT/ NOT -- ENOUGH --
ZZZRRRAAAAPP
-- TIME!
FASCINATING.
I KNOW I HAVE SEEN THIS BEFORE.


VVVSSSHH
SIRE! SENSORS HAVE DETECTED AN INTRUDER IN YOUR CHAMBERS --
-- BUT NOW WE HAVE LOST THE SIGNAL!
BEGONE, YOU MECHANOID CLODS! YOU'RE USELESS TO ME NOW!
REPORT TO THE PROGRAMMER TO HAVE YOUR RESPONSE TIME RECONFIGURED.
AS YOU COMMAND!
THIS IS A MATTER BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF YOUR SIMPLE SILICON CIRCUITRY...
...WHICH MAY INSTEAD INVOLVE A KEY ELEMENT OF MY MOST RECENT PROJECT!
MY CHRONO-DISPLACEMENT MECHANISM.
THIS APPEARS TO BE A MORE ADVANCED VERSION OF MY ORIGINAL CONTROL CARD.
ZZZRRRAAAAPP
I WONDER...
...IF I WERE TO REPLACE MY OWN UNIT WITH THIS NEW ONE... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
MOST INTRIGUING!
TO BE CONTINUED...

MINUTEMEN
Blutman